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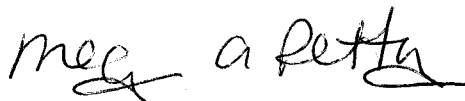
Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,

My name is Megan Petty and I reside in Marion Montana. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 544 because I deeply regret the abortion I had in 1974 at the age of sixteen. After suspecting I was pregnant my boyfriend and I went to the Open Door Clinic by my high school to get a free pregnancy test and found out that I was pregnant. The woman that I talked to told me that I should get an abortion, that it was no big deal and that the fetus was only a blob of flesh. She did not offer any alternatives or tell me where I could get some help to keep my baby. I wanted to have my child and did not want an abortion, but did not know where to turn. A couple of days later my Boyfriend asked to marry me and I was glad, but after telling my Mother she said, "You are not marrying that boy and you are not having that baby." She took me to an abortionist and paid for me to have an abortion.

I was not questioned by the Abortionist or his staff about my feelings regarding the abortion, or circumstances surrounding the abortion. I screamed STOP as he started the procedure; before I was even dilated he rendered me unconscious and continued the procedure anyway. The results of that procedure not only took the life of my baby, but left me depressed and feeling betrayed. I wish someone would have asked me how I felt or offered me alternatives to the abortion. I missed out on the opportunity to be a Mother and since I was never able to get pregnant again I have suffered deeply and have never gotten over having the abortion.

I can tell you that my abortion was unwanted and unnecessary. When reviewing this bill I would ask you, was my choice ever considered?

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Petty".

Megan Petty